

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a distributed computer system, the method comprising:
identifying, based on a user-defined autonomy criteria, a non-autonomous configuration task of a plurality of configuration tasks of an autonomy-based configuration procedure;
refraining from executing a ~~the~~ non-autonomous configuration task ~~of a plurality of configuration tasks of an autonomy-based configuration procedure~~ until authorization is received.
2. Cancelled.
3. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the autonomy criteria specifies at least one non-autonomous configuration task.
4. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the autonomy criteria specify an autonomy policy identifying characteristics of non-autonomous configuration tasks.
5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the autonomy criteria comprise a plurality of rules for identifying the non-autonomous configuration tasks.
6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
establishing the autonomy criteria by entering criteria information through a user interface.
7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

executing the non-autonomous configuration task when authorization is received.

8. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the non-autonomous configuration task comprises instructions to change a configuration parameter of a device.

9. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the non-autonomous configuration task comprises instructions to create a configuration object.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the non-autonomous configuration task comprises instructions to change a configuration object.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the instructions to change a configuration object comprise instructions to associate the configuration object with at least one other configuration object.

12. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the instructions to change a configuration object comprise instructions to create an additional configuration object based on the configuration object.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the instructions to change a configuration object comprise instructions instructing the configuration object to perform a function upon the configuration object.

14. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the instructions to change a configuration object comprise instructions instructing the configuration object to perform a function upon another configuration object.

15. (Original) A method of configuring a distributed computer system, the method comprising:

retrieving autonomy criteria identifying at least one non-autonomous configuration task that should not be autonomously executed;

identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task by applying the autonomy criteria to each configuration task of an autonomy-based configuration procedure for configuring a distributed computer system;
requesting authorization for executing the at least one configuration task;
and
refraining from executing the non-autonomous configuration task until authorization is received from an administrator.

16. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the requesting comprises:

generating an inquiry identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task and indicating that administrator input is required to execute the unauthorized configuration task.

17. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 16, further comprising:
executing the non-autonomous configuration task after the administrator input is received, the administrator input acknowledging the unauthorized configuration task should be executed.

18. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 15, further comprising:
aborting the configuration procedure when the administrator input is received, the administrator input indicating the non-autonomous configuration task should not be executed.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a distributed computer system, the method comprising:
receiving autonomy criteria entered by an administrator through a user interface;

retrieving autonomy criteria identifying at least one non-autonomous configuration task that should not be executed without authorization, the non-autonomous configuration task resulting in a change of at least one configuration parameter when executed;

identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task by

applying the autonomy criteria to each configuration task of an autonomy-based configuration procedure for configuring a distributed computer system;
requesting authorization for executing the at least one non-autonomous configuration task; and
refraining from executing the ~~unauthorized~~ non-autonomous configuration task until
authorization is received from an administrator.

20. (Original) A management server for managing a distributed computer system, the management server comprising:
computer-executable logic stored on a computer readable medium, the computer-executable logic configured to cause the following steps to occur:
retrieving autonomy criteria identifying at least one non-autonomous configuration task that should not be autonomously executed;
identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task by
applying the autonomy criteria to each configuration task of an autonomy-based configuration procedure for configuring a distributed computer system;
requesting authorization for executing the at least one configuration task;
and
refraining from executing the non-autonomous configuration task until
authorization is received from an administrator.

21. (Original) A management server in accordance with claim 20, wherein the step of requesting comprises:
generating an inquiry identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task and indicating that administrator input is required to execute the unauthorized configuration task.

22. (Original) A management server in accordance with claim 21, the computer-executable logic configured to further cause the following step to occur:

executing the non-autonomous configuration task after the administrator input is received, the administrator input acknowledging the unauthorized configuration task should be executed.

23. (Original) A management server in accordance with claim 20, the computer-executable logic configured to further cause the following step to occur:
aborting the configuration procedure when the administrator input is received, the administrator input indicating the non-autonomous configuration task should not be executed.

24. (Original) A program product for managing a distributed computer system, the program product comprising:
computer-executable logic contained on a computer-readable medium and configured for causing the following computer-executed steps to occur:
retrieving autonomy criteria identifying at least one non-autonomous configuration task that should not be autonomously executed;
identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task by applying the autonomy criteria to each configuration task of an autonomy-based configuration procedure for configuring a distributed computer system;
requesting authorization for executing the at least one configuration task;
and
refraining from executing the non-autonomous configuration task until authorization is received from an administrator.

25. (Original) A program product in accordance with claim 24, wherein the step of requesting comprises:
generating an inquiry identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task and indicating that administrator input is required to execute the unauthorized configuration task.

26. (Original) A program product in accordance with claim 24, the computer-executable logic configured to further cause the following step to occur:
executing the non-autonomous configuration task after the administrator

input is received, the administrator input acknowledging the unauthorized configuration task should be executed.

27. (Original) A program product in accordance with claim 25, the computer-executable logic configured to further cause the following step to occur:

aborting the configuration procedure when the administrator input is received, the administrator input indicating the non-autonomous configuration task should not be executed.

28. (Original) In a distributed computer system having a plurality of storage devices and a computer having application software for which data related to the application software may be stored on a storage device of the plurality of storage devices, a method for configuring the distributed computer system, the method comprising the step of:

refraining from executing a non-autonomous configuration task of a plurality of configuration tasks of an autonomy-based configuration procedure until authorization is received.

29. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, further comprising:
identifying the non-autonomous configuration task based on an autonomy criteria.

30. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 29, wherein the autonomy criteria specifies at least one non-autonomous configuration task.

31. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 29, wherein the autonomy criteria specify an autonomy policy identifying characteristics of non-autonomous configuration tasks.

32. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 31, wherein the autonomy criteria comprise a plurality of rules for identifying the non-autonomous configuration tasks.

33. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, further comprising:
establishing the autonomy criteria by entering criteria information
through a user interface.

34. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, further comprising:
executing the non-autonomous configuration task when
authorization is received.

35. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the non-
autonomous configuration task comprises instructions to change a configuration
parameter of a device.

36. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the non-
autonomous configuration task comprises instructions to create a configuration object.

37. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the non-
autonomous configuration task comprises instructions to change a configuration object.

38. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the instructions
to change a configuration object comprise instructions to associate the configuration
object with at least one other configuration object.

39. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the instructions
to change a configuration object comprise instructions to create an additional
configuration object based on the configuration object.

40. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the instructions
to change a configuration object comprise instructions instructing the configuration
object to perform a function upon the configuration object.

41. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the instructions
to change a configuration object comprise instructions instructing the configuration
object to perform a function upon another configuration object.

42. (Original) A data storage system that communicates with a computer which has application software that manipulates data that may be stored on the data storage system and the system including computer-executable logic for configuring a distributed computer system, the data storage system comprising:

- a plurality of storage devices; and
- computer-executable logic configured for causing the following computer-executed steps to occur:
 - retrieving autonomy criteria identifying at least one non-autonomous configuration task that should not be autonomously executed;
 - identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task by applying the autonomy criteria to each configuration task of an autonomy-based configuration procedure for configuring a distributed computer system;
 - requesting authorization for executing the at least one configuration task; and
 - refraining from executing the non-autonomous configuration task until authorization is received from an administrator.

43. (Original) A data storage system in accordance with claim 42, wherein the step of requesting comprises:

- generating an inquiry identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task and indicating that administrator input is required to execute the unauthorized configuration task.

44. (Original) A data storage system in accordance with claim 43, the computer-executable logic configured to further cause the following step to occur:

- executing the non-autonomous configuration task after the administrator input is received, the administrator input acknowledging the unauthorized configuration task should be executed.

45. (Original) A data storage system in accordance with claim 42, the computer-executable logic configured to further cause the following step to occur:

aborting the configuration procedure when the administrator input is received, the administrator input indicating the non-autonomous configuration task should not be executed.

46. (Original) A management server for managing a distributed computer system, the management server comprising:

retrieving means for retrieving autonomy criteria identifying at least one non-autonomous configuration task that should not be autonomously executed;

identifying means for identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task by applying the autonomy criteria to each configuration task of an autonomy-based configuration procedure for configuring a distributed computer system;

requesting means for requesting authorization for executing the at least one configuration task; and

refraining means for refraining from executing the non-autonomous configuration task until authorization is received from an administrator.

47. (Original) A management server in accordance with claim 46, wherein the requesting means comprises:

generating means for generating an inquiry identifying the at least one non-autonomous configuration task and indicating that administrator input is required to execute the unauthorized configuration task.

48. (Original) A management server in accordance with claim 47 further comprising:

executing means for executing the non-autonomous configuration task after the administrator input is received, the administrator input acknowledging the unauthorized configuration task should be executed.

49. (Original) A management server in accordance with claim 46, the management server further comprising:

an aborting means for aborting the configuration procedure when the administrator input is received, the administrator input indicating the non-autonomous configuration task should not be executed.